



August 16, 2007

Reply to the Attn: Office of Chief Counsel

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Attorney Advisor

SUBJECT: Approval for SSC Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend the A-3 Test Stand Groundbreaking Ceremony sponsored by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Stennis Space Center ("SSC") employees with senior institutional or project responsibilities with regard to SSC's operating services have been invited to attend the A-3 Test Stand Groundbreaking Ceremony sponsored by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne ("PWR") at SSC, Stennis, Mississippi, on or about Thursday, August 23, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the construction of the A-3 Test Stand at SSC.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of aerospace industry representatives, NASA employees, and members of the public. The ceremony is valued at approximately \$10 per person and approximately 89 individuals have been invited to attend. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

PWR is a NASA contractor that is currently involved in the construction of the A-3 Test Stand at SSC. Some SSC personnel invited to attend this event presently have extensive involvement in matters relating to PWR's business interests. The invited personnel include the following: SSC Center Director; SSC Deputy Director; SSC Chief Counsel; SSC Manager of Safety and Mission Assurance; SSC Manager of External Affairs and Education; SSC Director of Center Operations Directorate; SSC Manager of Office of Human Capital; SSC Director of Business Management Directorate; SSC Director of Rocket Propulsion Test Program Office; SSC Director of Engineering and Science Directorate; SSC A-3 Program Manager; SSC A-3 Deputy Program Manager; SSC Manager of Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity; SSC Legislative Affairs Officer; and, SSC Public Affairs Officer. These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities that could significantly influence current PWR contracts.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the A-3 Test Stand Groundbreaking Ceremony is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these senior NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with national, state, and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information concerning its activities.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, SSC employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to me at 228-688-1587.

Original signed by:

Marleen J. Phillips